

MONEY FOR RECREATION *

Do your girls have fun in their spare time? Or do they just sit around and wish they had something to do?

We all spend part of our time on recreational activities, so part of our money will be spent for recreation.

One simple definition of recreation is: "Recreation is fun we learn to have in all our free moments." ^{1/} We all like our fun and it seems a little queer that anyone has to learn to have fun. At any rate this spare time, or leisure time as many people call it, can be looked upon as an opportunity - a chance to do things that are fun.

Are the girls getting their fun's worth? Club members vary in age, but many of them go to the movies a lot. Some seemed to think that going to the movie is practically all there is to do. But that isn't so. In looking about any community a long list of activities can be made. In studying this list one can see that some recreational activities cost money. Some activities cost the girls nothing but are provided by their homes or parents. Some recreational activities cost nothing or very little because the community provides a place and equipment. Many are fortunate to live near lakes or mountains and that is a natural advantage of the area.

Picnics are an activity high on the list for summer, particularly among rural people. Families or 4-H groups do not always depend entirely upon parks, woods or lakes for a place to have the picnic. Many families have outdoor fireplaces in their back yards and enjoy them not only as a family, but invite groups in to share the fun. And in winter many families make use of fireplaces in their play rooms for picnics.

Food for picnics might be listed under the heading of food in the account books, but if the young people didn't have the picnic they would eat at home where their parents would pay for the food, so the picnic food is part of the fun and a recreational cost.

Young and old alike enjoy the municipal pools and lakes and here there is often a fee to help keep up the pool or beach. Swim parties often include dancing, usually dancing to music provided by records or radio. Play rooms at home or community rooms provide a place for small dancing parties too. Young and old alike enjoy dancing. The many square dance groups all over the country is an evidence that dancing is generally liked by all.

Listening to a favorite radio program or records is another favorite recreational pastime. The hobby of many people is their record collection. In some cases these record collections include only dance music, others include more classical records. But, whatever type, a record collection costs money. So, too, does the radio.

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^{1/} Money Management - The Recreation Dollar - p. 13. Household Finance Corp.

Then there are sports. Equipment and licenses cost money for those participating. Those living near lakes or in areas where game is plentiful will learn to fish or hunt and will need equipment for it.

Skating - either ice skating or roller skating - requires equipment. The community or area must provide the place for such an activity.

Bicycle riding is an activity many groups of young people like. To acquire such equipment as a bicycle, skates, fishing rod, or tennis racket, young people may save for the equipment desired. Or it may come to them as a gift, birthday or Christmas, from parents or grandparents.

Some hobbies require a good deal of money, others very little. Such hobbies as a scrap book of a wild flower collection, for instance, or clippings of the best movies, would not cost much. But taking pictures or a collection of records might involve a considerable amount of money. If one's hobby is craft work it may be a costly hobby, depending upon the cost of craft materials. Sometimes the set of tools required makes the first cost of a hobby high. But it may not be an expensive hobby to keep up.

Does every one find all recreational activities of equal pleasure? Do we all like equally well to fish, to swim, to read a book, to make things with our hands? Probably not. But we do want to try out many things. Each person needs to know what makes a good time for himself. Many families who think they have very little recreation do a great deal of entertaining - having people in for dinner. The food bill may be sent soaring, but for such families entertaining is their fun.

Make a list of the way you like to spend your leisure time. Does your list contain both active and spectator sports? Do you find you have enough social life? Do you devote some of your time to hobbies? In other words, be a bit "choosey" about your use of leisure time. Have as good time as possible by learning which things give you actual pleasure.

Which activities give the most pleasure in relation to money spent? Money is usually limited for recreation. We know that we can have fun without spending any money or very little. But there are other activities which we may want to include in our recreational program, which cost enough, that plans far in advance have to be made. An extensive vacation trip may be one of these activities or some recreational equipment, such as a camera, bicycle or tennis racket. Plans may need to be made in advance for a season ticket to the swimming pool, or a concert ticket. If the activity means fun and real recreation for the individual then it is worth planning and saving in order to do it. We should all realize that spending for recreation and satisfaction - the fun we've had - are not synonymous.

Bibliography:

1. King, Martha - Money Management - The Recreation Dollar, Household Finance Corp.
2. Colkins, Earnest Elmo - Care and Feeding of Hobby Horses - Leisure League of America, N. Y.

Does All Your Recreation Cost Money?

Recreational Activity	Provided by			Natural Advantages of Area
	Money from Allowance earnings-gifts	Home and Parents	Community	
Movies - Plays				
Picnics				
Swimming				
Dancing				
Radio - Records				
Fishing				
Books - Magazines				
Foot ball - Basket ball				
Skating				
Bicycle riding				
Photography				
Scrapbooks				
Crafts				
Entertaining at home				

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